

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 24, 2020

2019/SMA-36(AB)

The Honorable Ikaika M. Anderson
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Anderson and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Public Hearing Transcript
Supplemental Transmittal for Departmental Communication
D-0033(20) - Special Management Area (SMA) Use Permit Application
File No. 2019/SMA-36
Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements

Please see the attached transcript from the public hearing held on December 18, 2019, at the McCoy Pavilion in Ala Moana Park, which was inadvertently omitted from the SMA Use Permit report and recommendation for Ala Moana Regional Park and Magic Island Improvements Project, transmitted as Departmental Communication D-0033(20). We apologize for the oversight.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 768-8000.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kathy K. Sokugawa".

Kathy K. Sokugawa
Acting Director

Attachment

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.".

Roy K. Amemiya, Jr.
Managing Director

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
STATE OF HAWAII

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
APPLICATION OF ALA MOANA) FILE NO. 2019/SMA-36 (AB)
REGIONAL PARK AND MAGIC ISLAND)
_____)

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

The above-entitled matter came on for hearing at
the Ala Moana Regional Park, McCoy Pavilion Auditorium, 1201
Ala Moana Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawaii, on Wednesday,
December 18, 2019, commencing at 1:30 p.m., pursuant to
Notice.

BEFORE: ELIZABETH KRUEGER, Hearings Officer
ALEX BEATTY, Staff Planner

P R O C E E D I N G S

HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Good morning everyone.

My name is Elizabeth Krueger, and I'm the hearings officer for today's matter. It's 10:30 a.m., and we're at the Ala Moana Regional Park, McCoy Pavilion Auditorium. Today we're conducting a public hearing in accordance with Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Chapter 25, related to the Special Management Area as well as Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 205A. The purpose of today's public hearing is to hear testimony on an application for a Special Management Use Permit, File No. 2019/SMA-36.

Pursuant to Chapter 25 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, all development within the SMA is subject to reasonable terms and conditions to ensure, 1) adequate access is provided to publicly owned or used beaches, recreation areas and natural reserves; 2) provisions are made for solid and liquid waste treatment disposition and management, and 3) alterations to land forms and vegetations and construction of structures minimize adverse affects to Special Management Area resources and cause minimal potential danger to relevant natural disasters.

No development in the Special Management Area may be approved unless it is found that it will not have a substantial adverse environmental or ecological effect.

1 Development must be consistent with the coastal zoned
2 management objectives, the general plan, development plans
3 and zoning.

4 Lastly, the City Council must seek to minimize
5 where reasonable the alteration of any natural shoreline,
6 any development which would reduce the size of any beach or
7 public recreation area, any development which would reduce
8 or risk public access to shoreline resources, any
9 development which would substantially interfere with the
10 line of sight toward the sea from the state highway, and any
11 development which would adversely affect water quality,
12 fishing grounds, wildlife habitats or agricultural uses.

13 No decision is being made here today. The purpose of this
14 public hearing is to take testimony from the public so that
15 you can have input into the Director's report and
16 recommendation as well as City Council's decision-making
17 when they receive the report.

18 You will have the opportunity to continue to
19 provide testimony when the application goes to the City
20 Council for actual decision-making. Once we close the
21 public hearing, the Department will have 20 working days to
22 transmit its report and recommendation to the City Council.

23 All testimony received today is going to be part of the
24 record. It will be reflected in our report and attached to
25 our report and recommendation as well as a full written

1 transcript so that the City Council can consider what was
2 heard today. You are encouraged to contact the City Clerk
3 if you'd like to attend the hearings held by the City
4 Council.

5 This is the procedure for today's public hearing.
6 Alex Beatty, the staff planner will present the basic facts
7 behind the request, then the Applicant will present the
8 project in greater detail. After that we will take public
9 testimony. Each person will have one opportunity to speak.

10 At the end of the testimony period, DPP staff, Department
11 of Planning and Permitting staff will have an opportunity to
12 ask questions about the proposal and the Applicant will have
13 an opportunity to address any comments or concerns heard
14 today.

15 There will not be a discussion period or question
16 and answer period, however, as the public testimony portion
17 of the hearing will have concluded. Now Alex will present
18 the facts of the project. And let me just say, anybody who
19 just came in and would like to testify verbally, I ask that
20 you fill out one of these pink sheets.

21 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: Thank you Liz. The
22 Applicant is seeking a Special Management Area Use Permit to
23 make repairs and improvements at the Ala Moana Regional Park
24 and Magic Island, in accordance with the 10-year master plan
25 disclosed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

1 Specifically, the FEIS and SMA Application identify 17
2 developments that include the following: 1) add a dog
3 park; 2) pond edge improvements; 3) Piikoi and Queen Street
4 entrance improvements; 4) Keyhole parking lot expansion;
5 5&6) Parking re-arrangement along Ala Moana Boulevard on the
6 mauka and makai side of Ala Moana Park Drive; 7) Magic
7 Island parking lot reconfiguration; 8) Repairs Roosevelt
8 Portals; 9) Kamekee Street entrance improvements; 10) Canoe
9 launch ramp and crossing improvements; 11) Renovations to
10 McCoy Pavilion and Banyan Courtyard; 12) Improvements to the
11 "high spot" terrace and path; 13) Sand replenishment and
12 beach nourishment; 14) Construction of a playground; 15)
13 Maintenance yard playground; 16) New multi-use facility lawn
14 bowling and lawn bowling improvements; and 17) Ocean
15 Safety's Honolulu Headquarters relocation.

16 Some of the proposed improvements are within the
17 shoreline setback area and may require a shoreline setback
18 variance in the future. The beach nourishment project
19 partially takes place makai of the shoreline, and may also
20 require state or federal approvals. Other approvals
21 required included grading, grubbing, building, and
22 construction permits, including a review of compliance with
23 stormwater and drainage runoff regulations.

24 The project site is about 119 acres in area,
25 consisting of the Ala Moana Regional Park, which is parallel

1 to the Pacific Ocean between Kewalo Basin and Ala Wai Boat
2 Harbor, and Magic Island, which consists of a peninsula and
3 manmade lagoon next to the Ala Wai Boat Harbor.

4 Collectively these areas are known as Ala Moana Park. The
5 Park is accessed by a number of pedestrian entrances along
6 Ala Moana Boulevard. The park is also accessed by the Ala
7 Moana Park Drive, which is a two-way road through the park
8 providing access to nearly 1,000 parking spaces within the
9 Park.

10 The site is in the P-2 General Preservation
11 District, is entirely in the SMA, and is a shoreline site.

12 The generally flat site is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to
13 the south, the Ala Wai Harbor to the east, Kewalo Basin to
14 the west, and Ala Moana Boulevard to the north. Much of the
15 site is in a flood hazard area. Other than the two harbors,
16 nearby uses include a large shopping center, hotels,
17 multi-family dwellings, and a variety of commercial
18 establishments.

19 If this SMA permit is approved, the Applicant may
20 then apply for the necessary permits for any development
21 outside of the shoreline setback area. Projects within the
22 shoreline setback area may require a variance, or minor
23 shoreline structure permits. Any activities makai of the
24 shoreline require approval from the State or Federal
25 government agencies.

1 That concludes my presentation. Thank you.

2 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you, Alex. Again,
3 where people are trickling in, if you'd like to provide
4 verbal testimony please fill out the pink sheet. And at
5 this time would the Applicant like to add or present more
6 details to the project? And please state your name for the
7 record.

8 MS. HIRAMATSU: My name is Joanne Hiramatsu, and
9 I'm the director of planning. And we have actually been the
10 consultant to the City and County of Honolulu, Design and
11 Construction department. And this project--Actually I'll
12 give a short background on how this whole thing started.

13 We got started in 2015 with the master plan.

14 The master plan took approximately two years to be
15 completed and during that time we had a lot of outreach that
16 was done that included federal agencies, the one that did
17 the most outreach. And they are also prepared a website. We
18 did walking tours at different times of the day, mornings,
19 noon and afternoon. The first two years we did a lot of
20 outreach. And after the master plan finally completed, the
21 types of improvements that were recommended were either
22 outreach. There were a lot of things that came up including
23 time to privatize the park; wide range of projects that came
24 up during that time period. So after the master plan was
25 done, we started water quality sampling, traffic studies,

1 parking studies. One of the things that we forgot to do
2 failed to do, instead of doing a culture impact analysis, we
3 actually did a cultural assessment plan. That's why there
4 was the first gap of the EIS in there. So once all the
5 studies were done, we published the EISPN and DEIS, which
6 was in July 2018. Then the first draft came out--I'm sorry,
7 the list came out in December 2017. Then the first draft
8 came out in July 2018, and then the second draft came out
9 February 2019. So, earlier this year.

10 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: I'm sorry, Joanne.

11 Could you pull the microphone a little bit closer. We're
12 having difficulty hearing.

13 MS. HIRAMATSU: And then we submitted the SMA
14 application in October of this year. If you're interested
15 in receiving the copy of the EIS, it's on the OEQC website.
16 It's available at OEQC.DOH.Hawaii.gov. That's all I have.
17 Thank you.

18 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you. We will now
19 begin the public hearing testimony portion of the public
20 hearing. Each testifier will have one opportunity to speak.
21 And then for anyone who would like to provide verbal
22 testimony, please fill out a pink sheet. We currently have
23 11 speakers signed up to testify, so I ask to limit their
24 testimony to about three minutes. And so the first
25 registered speaker is Helene Phillips followed by Lawrence

1 Miike. Please come up here and use this microphone and when
2 you start please state your name for the record.

3 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER; The question is whether
4 you should speak to me or to the audience? I would say your
5 real audience is the Director and the City Council.

6 So, say what you like them to hear.

7 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. My name is Helene Phillips.
8 I'm a retired lifeguard of Ala Moana Beach Park. I was
9 lifeguard for 33 years. I have a serious concern of the dog
10 park and that putting dog park close to the ocean. I have a
11 serious concern about the sand, where we get the sand. If we
12 get it offshore here, there's serious contamination
13 concerns. But my major concern is keeping the lifeguard
14 stand. I feel that putting perpendicular parking on the
15 mauka side of Ala Moana Park groove is inviting accidents. I
16 realize anytime you have cars and people, they're going to
17 be hazards. But I believe those hazards having people back
18 in, making left turns, right turns. I guess you read the
19 answer that Mr. Kroning gave, and he said, I don't know how
20 wide they're planning on making from centerline to where the
21 cars are perpendicular. But he thinks there's going to be
22 cars backing out onto traffic. It's going to have to be a
23 pretty wide area for a car to be able to pull out that's not
24 blocking. So the things I've seen over the years, it seems
25 like they want people to use crosswalks and that what's been

1 happening. They're going to unload in the walkway now.
2 Some people will, but most people won't. So, I think we
3 should just keep it the safest possible. And, yes, there
4 may accidents once in a while. Thank you.

5 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
6 testimony.

7 [audience applause]

8 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Right now we have a lot
9 of testifiers, so I ask that you hold your applause, please.
10 The next testifier is Lawrence Miike and followed by Carol
11 Ching.

12 MR. MIIKE: Good morning. My name is Lawrence
13 Miike. I have been a regular use of of Ala Moana Regional
14 park and Magic Island Park for nearly twenty years. I have
15 had extensive experience as a hearings officer for the
16 Department of Land and Natural Resources. The Department of
17 Design and Construction will submit their findings and
18 recommendations to City Council. First of all in the EIS
19 offered by Design and Construction one has to be very
20 objective. There are different departments they also work
21 with the City. One is the SMAP application. There are two
22 projects that are going to be new, the dog park and the
23 playground. They already know that the playground is off
24 the board, but not officially. The SMA application, the
25 entire money discussed is \$144 million with no explanation

1 about where it comes from. The fourth big project right now
2 is about \$5.9 million, that's the road and irrigation. It's
3 funded by the City. There is no explanation all year
4 around. The EIS, the final EIS changed the \$144 million.
5 How they arrived at \$144 million? Without that I don't see
6 any assessment.

7 On the dog park, people were concerned about dogs
8 pooping in the park. And can't tell from the application.
9 I have several recommendations. One, I don't know want to
10 stop this SMA. On the dog park, take it off the board and
11 can always come back for a minor permit. On the park, there
12 is nothing to stop Design and Construction removing that
13 application.

14 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
15 testimony. Our next--

16 [audience applause]

17 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Please hold your
18 applause. The next testifier is Carol Ching followed by
19 Brad Frye.

20 MS. CHING: My name is Carol Ching. My objection
21 is the dog park. The area that's designated the dog park to
22 be is too small. Every designated area has no poop
23 drop-offs. I had practically more experience with dogs than
24 most people. Because I had two dogs. I was member of the
25 Dog Friendly Club. I trained my dogs for obedience

1 competition. I'm sanctioned by the American Kennel Club, so
2 I can say I have more experience and knowledge about dogs.
3 Dogs like to play. They like playing areas. They like to
4 chase and chase, wrestle with other dogs. This is part of
5 their socialization. They love the owners throwing the ball
6 far away, as far can be; frisbee. That's a very nice grove
7 to be the dog park. The grass will be brown. They pee all
8 over the grass and soon will turn black. The male dogs like
9 to lift their legs up against the tree; the higher the
10 better. It needs to be maintained. So when you wash down
11 the urine from the top soil; roots of the trees, you're
12 going to kill the trees. It may not be used a lot, but it's
13 used to look as you're driving through. So what will happen
14 if that becomes a drop off, people will drive their dog
15 there, take them out, let the dog do their business and go
16 to the other parks, beach, because there's no other place
17 giving them the opportunity. So, if not a dog park, it
18 becomes a relief station. Thank you.

19 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
20 testimony. The next testifier is Brad Frye followed by
21 Sharlene Chun-Lum. Please state your name for the record.

22 MR. FRYE: My name is Brad Frye. Thank you for the
23 opportunity for me to speak. I'm opposed to a dog park,
24 which is so small, there won't be a dog park, just a pee on
25 the tree. And by the way, the Kaka'ako-Ala Moana

1 Neighborhood Board identified some other locations;
2 Kaka'ako. They identified several locations and never
3 considered an EIS. So I wonder Mayor Caldwell why do you
4 want to put the dog park in Ala Moana Park. Listen to the
5 neighborhood board.

6 I'm opposed to the playground in the park and
7 adding parking stalls. But I oppose the EIS parking plan
8 because it needlessly, the stories about two football fields
9 worth of grass and trees and replace the very ugly asphalt
10 to concrete for the sidewalks. I say needlessly because the
11 plan for new stalls of the EIS can easily be achieved by
12 using more efficient parking in the existing map and
13 proposed EIS plan Keyhole. If these lots adopt one-way
14 lanes, it can add 20-25% for parking stalls, perpendicular
15 stalls. The Kawalo Basin parking lot adjacent to the Ala
16 Moana Park looks fine. The EIS 1,800 square foot, 18 feet or
17 more feet wide. The mauka side of the parking, that's about
18 one football field area. Imagine Magic Island parking lot
19 will be 150 feet. That's a lot of grass and trees to lose.
20 And the two football field, asphalt and concrete is going to
21 use millions of taxpayer's dollars. It is not necessary.
22 Let's not do that. Let's use efficient parking design so we
23 can keep the park green. Mahalo.

24 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
25 testimony. The next registered speaker is Sharlene Chun-Lum

1 followed by Eugene Lee. And anyone who has just come in
2 since we started, if you want to give verbal testimony,
3 please fill out one of these pink sheets.

4 MS. CHUN-LUM: Good morning and thank you for this
5 opportunity to testify. I have submitted written testimony
6 and some of you those came before me also mentioned also
7 several issues that I have concern about. Recently the FEIS
8 and SMA are different. It's very hard for the public to
9 come up with a good answer because as matter of fact, the
10 SMA says if you want more information defer to FEIS, and
11 it's not attached. So that means you have to go back and
12 search for it and search through more than 2,000 pages of
13 testimonies or information to come up with an answer. And,
14 I think it's against the purpose of trying to get the public
15 involved in this.

16 Secondly, there is no discussion, there's no
17 association of each project with good cause. Not only that,
18 there's no association of maintenance. Yet in the SMA they
19 say the reason why it's taking so long is because the
20 project has been too costly to maintain over the years. So
21 one wonders if you put out these new projects, will it be
22 worse off because now you have to maintain what exists, plus
23 these new homes. So, I think that's a concern before you go
24 forward.

25 And some other people mentioned the dog park. And

1 that specifically is the ROH Rules under Chapter 25, solid
2 waste and liquid waste. And the dog park okay. Perhaps
3 people pick up their dog waste. And there are studies talk
4 about toxicity actually when the dog pees on the trees, they
5 encourage insects to the trunk of the trees. Also when you
6 bring the dogs to the park, you expose the grassy area which
7 creates a problem, not only the maintenance people, but the
8 pest people to keep it under. You're introducing more
9 concerns and comments. Once they get there, especially if
10 it's a small park and say it's too scary for my dog to take
11 them out to the beach instead, there's no discussion of
12 anything of solid waste or liquid waste. So that
13 specifically is against the guidelines that you have.

14 The other thing that I like to point out is
15 regarding the sand. There is question and it is now in SMA
16 it doesn't name the area. That is outside of the Ala Wai
17 which is identified by the Department of Health that the
18 water is contaminated. It needs to be tested. So, we don't
19 know what they'll be bringing to the beach without earlier
20 testing. And putting a barge on the Magic Island side.
21 We know that three types of hurricanes etc. and putting that
22 barge. In terms of what could happen to the rest of the
23 Magic Island. The other thing is I wonder why there wasn't
24 Option 1. In the EIS say let's work mostly on the wet spot;
25 let's replace the erosion area. That's the one we're

1 talking about \$2.5 million. That's the spot, not everywhere
2 else. So, instead of saying that let's find good sand and
3 put in place where it's needed, they're talking about taking
4 away other uses rights; to do other things on the beach,
5 just lying down on the sand.

6 The last thing is we're concerned that it will go
7 forward if it's not petitioned now. I asked to have an
8 amendment before we have this hearing, but I'm told that is
9 not the time. Thank you very much.

10 HEARING OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you very much for
11 testimony. The next registered speaker is Eugene Lee,
12 followed by Audrey Lee. Please state your name for the
13 record.

14 MR. LEE: I'm Eugene Lee, and I frequent the area.
15 For years Ala Moana has been a place for connection with and
16 enjoying the ocean and an accessible location to enjoy the
17 beach for my family and myself. People from all island and
18 around the world have come to the park to enjoy the access
19 to the beach and ocean as well as the ocean green spaces.
20 This park is truly the people's park.

21 However, any plans for park improvement must
22 prioritize the major purpose of the park, that is, access to
23 the use of the beach and open green space. What makes Ala
24 Moana Beach Park special to so many people its long
25 tradition of providing easy access to the ocean and green

1 space so that it can be enjoyed in many ways.

2 I am concerned that the improvements are
3 incomplete in addressing the environmental, public health,
4 social, cultural and economic impacts proposed in the master
5 plan for Ala Moana Regional Park. As noted in the Chapter
6 25 SMA, state that the review of the SMA use permit
7 application is examined for adverse environmental or
8 ecological effect, as well as, consideration of the public
9 health, safety and public interest.

10 Several issues that need to be further addressed
11 for this SMA permit application. Dog park. Enforcement of
12 the rules regarding dogs in public parks; public health for
13 both human and dogs regarding beach access; adherence to the
14 guidelines for dog parks determined by the Ala Moana
15 Neighborhood board task force; and cost of maintenance and
16 liability for having a dog park. Issues of dog health also
17 need to be considered including their exposure to the above
18 bacteria and parasites, but also serious conditions
19 resulting from sand and saltwater consumption.

20 The playground. For social and cultural issues,
21 current park users have expressed concerns to keep the
22 park's character the same. There was no desire to upscale
23 the park with modern design and added structures. The
24 playgrounds does not fit the existing character of the park.

25 Parking changes to the Keyhole parking lot, mauka

1 side of Ala Moana Park Drive and Magic Island parking lot.
2 There is proposal to reconfigure parking on the mauka side
3 of Ala Moana Park Drive by changing existing parallel
4 parking stalls to perpendicular stalls.

5 Currently, most of the time parking capacity is
6 below 90% which questions the need for additional parking
7 spaces, but also environmentally impacts the parking through
8 the loss of grass and trees. Additional safety concerns
9 with perpendicular parking on the mauka side is the
10 inconvenience compared to parallel parking. The impact of
11 creating perpendicular stalls will involve removing the
12 existing grassy areas and trees from the mauka side.
13 Perpendicular parking requires twice as much space
14 length-wide, requiring the permanent elimination of
15 significant grassy areas and removal of trees, and
16 disruption due to roadwork on Ala Moana Park Drive.

17 I recommend further study to determine further
18 parking needs for a year to determine if this is sufficient
19 for the overflow parking needed on weekends and at special
20 events before incurring the additional expense of taxpayer
21 dollars, disruption to the traffic in the park, and
22 permanent loss of green space on the mauka lawn.

23 Sand replenishment and long-term beach
24 nourishment. The materials in the SMA application and the
25 FEIS are superficial and the appendices that address the

1 sand replenishment issues were well done but did not provide
2 the public review and did not address the major public
3 health, cultural, and economic impacts. Opposition to this
4 proposed action is based on additional examination of the
5 studies from sand/beach replenishment in near-by Waikiki.

6 The sand studies only examine the size and
7 consistency of the sand, however, the site proposed in the
8 FEIS did not conduct contaminant analysis of the sand for
9 heavy metal-earth mineral analysis nor bacterial growth in
10 an area which lies in the path of the discharge plume from
11 the Ala Wai canal which could result in a public health
12 situation for beach users and result in a unnecessary
13 clean-up cost.

14 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you. The next
15 registered testifier is Audrey Lee followed by Lynne
16 Kobayashi.

17 MS. LEE: Good morning. My name is Audrey Lee and
18 thank you for letting me the opportunity to comment on this.

19 On behalf of the Malama Moana, a large group of
20 concerned residents and park users throughout the state, I
21 would like to state our concerns.

22 First, the perpendicular parking slated for the
23 mauka side of Ala Moana Park Drive has taking out of
24 considerable amounts of open green space, trees, and curbing
25 affecting the traffic on the two-way road, by taking out 2

1 feet and scaling perpendicular stalls to a length that will
2 not accommodate larger trucks and SUVs thereby creating even
3 more hazardous conditions for pedestrians and drivers as
4 well as emergency vehicles coming through the park.

5 Another consideration is the sea level rise slated
6 for the Ala Moana park area even in the this decade. The
7 prediction for king tides reaching Ala Moana Shopping Center
8 is around 2027. Perhaps we could abandon the perpendicular
9 parking on Ala Moana Park Drive and consider Mr. Frye's
10 Magic Island idea at a minimum cost of paint and signage or
11 just add the 104 stalls now and see if need more on the
12 Magic Island side of the park later on.

13 Secondly, we are opposed to building of a dog park
14 in an area that is does not comply with identified criteria
15 determined by the Ala Moana/Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board Task
16 Force for dog parks. Dogs are not allowed in Ala Moana Park
17 except while traversing the park on a leash. Yet, many dogs
18 are in the park off leash daily playing and even swimming
19 and nothing is enforced.

20 Health and safety are other factors to not create
21 a dog park at Ala Moana. Feces and urine would attract
22 flies and maggots which create a health hazard in the air.
23 Beach goers have already found dog feces in the sand. When
24 it rains heavily, runoff fro the flooded area designated for
25 the dog park runs into the canals which flush out to the

1 swimmers's beach. Another health hazard, this time in the
2 water, also has stated that dogs can get sick from people
3 through the contaminated water at the beach as well.

4 Our third comment regarding the Master Plan is
5 about the inclusive playground. The process by which the
6 playground came to be in the Master Plan is as big as an
7 issue as the playground itself. Much of this will be left
8 out of this testimony since Pa'ani Kakou and the Mayor have
9 now agreed to look at Kaka'ako as a possible site for the
10 playground instead of keeping it at Ala Moana. We
11 understand the playground will be taken out of the SMA
12 application by the City Council and that an inclusive
13 restroom facility will be built to house an adult sized
14 changing table and restroom. This may be removed from an
15 existing facility at Ala Moana. Malama Moana agrees that
16 this is an appropriate accommodation for the park and that
17 it is greatly needed for disabled park users who may not be
18 able to use the regular restroom facilities.

19 Thank you for allowing us to share our concerns
20 with you. We hope you will consider the points that the
21 public is making about some of these plans and make the
22 changes best suited for the park without spending too much
23 for little or poor results. Thank you.

24 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
25 testimony. The next registered speaker Lynne Kobayashi

1 followed by Kevin O'Leary. Please state your name for the
2 record.

3 MS. KOBAYASHI: My name is Lynne Kobayashi. I
4 strongly oppose the City to change the parking
5 configuration. I see people alone. I see children learning
6 to ride bikes at the center of the park. To dawn to dusk
7 walkers, joggers and families with baby strollers. People
8 one side, cars on the other.

9 Dog parks. Dog owners encourage users to walk
10 their dogs along the park. Consider lack of enforcement of
11 City's own park rules. We should encourage greater
12 discussion among dog park use.

13 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you. The next
14 registered speaker is Kevin O'Leary followed by Bruce Lum.

15 MR. O'LEARY: Ala Moana Beach Park is considered
16 the people's park for simple reason that everyone uses it.
17 It should stay green and clean for generations to come.
18 Extending the parking lot out into the green space to Magic
19 Island; bad idea.

20 Sand replenishment with possibly polluted sand;
21 bad idea. The world class playground off the table, to be
22 built in the Kaka'ako instead; good idea.

23 That's all I'm going to say. Some of you said at
24 City Council meeting as far as input goes we have enough
25 input. How did the playground get stopped? It's because

1 what (inaudible) Ako cited. It's his approach to the public
2 is somewhat by his opinion that people who oppose playground
3 were mean people. And then this idea was given up. He was
4 extremely angry. In my opinion the input we talk about the
5 park. We ask them to send in testimony. Did they do that?
6 No. The reason they didn't do that because they didn't
7 think their voices are being heard. Thank you.

8 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you. The next
9 registered testifier is Bruce Lum followed by Malisa Otis.
10 And for anyone who has just come in, if you like to testify
11 verbal testimony please fill out the pink sheet.

12 MR. LUM: Thank you very much. You know, I don't
13 know about you, but I have a lot of more involvement in
14 this. Ever since I got involved in this project, I learned
15 a lot of things. Thank you each and every one who
16 persistently stiffening your back and saying, "we don't buy
17 this anymore." The Mayor started this whole process telling
18 us what we wanted, but Anne Kobayashi was the only person
19 who (inaudible). My message to you all is you need to be
20 persistent and say all improvements makai of Ala Moana
21 Boulevard cannot be done, forget it. Put your foot down,
22 insist on it. We still have a long ways to go. The Council
23 has to get all this information and decide what they think
24 they should do. They're representing their constituents.
25 Just tell them in enforce 1846, nowhere makai of Ala Moana

1 Boulevard, whether it's sand, whether it's Magic Island or
2 or playground. Forget it. Thank you.

3 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you. The next
4 testifier is Malisa Otis followed by Douglas Valenta.

5 MS. OTIS: Hi. I'm Malisa Otis. I'm a strong
6 supporter of save Sherwood Forest and also a strong
7 supporter to save Ala Moana. And I haven't heard any
8 testimony that people wanted this new phase. But as you can
9 see the majority of people that are here and who frequent
10 the park. I'm from Waimanalo which is my sunset sanctuary.
11 I just went to Kaka'ako yesterday and they want to build a
12 park there and suddenly there's so many homeless; where are
13 they are going to go? You're pushing the homeless out. We
14 don't need another park. The City Council should make a
15 Bill. Thank you.

16 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you. The next
17 speaker is Douglas Valenta followed by Bianca Isaki.

18 MR. VALENTA: Hi. Doug Valenta representing
19 (inaudible). There are some who use the park for non-park
20 uses. The City has been irresponsible in keeping up with
21 the maintenance. While the park is an issue, there should
22 be other options. The City wants to encourage the use of
23 Uber, the bus system and other options and encourage people
24 to come to the park. Thank you.

25 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you. The next

1 registered speaker is Bianca Isaki followed by Ricky Wonder.
2 Please state your name for the record.

3 MS. ISAKI: I'm Bianca Isaki. I'm from the
4 Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance, 501(c)3, based in Honolulu.

5 Kahea is a community-based organization that
6 advocates for the proper stewardship of our resources and
7 for social responsibility by promoting cultural
8 understanding and environmental justice. We mostly excited
9 about adverse impacts to cultural and recreational
10 resources. These include open space, compromised through
11 redevelopment of the bowling law and keyhole into multi-use
12 areas and parking lots. Cultural resources include the sand
13 crabs and other invertebrates who are the food for tako and
14 nearshore fish and who will be destroyed by dumping 70,000
15 cubic yards of sand as part of the of an ill-advised sand
16 replenishment project. Cultural resources include shell
17 collecting, nearshore fish, and surf breaks, including
18 access to surf breaks and the coral reefs that create those
19 breaks.

20 All of these resources are adversely impacted by
21 increasing park traffic. This nowhere discussed in the EIS
22 or the SMA. There is no Ka Pa'akai analysis. Rather, they
23 uncritically tout increasing visitor use without disclosing
24 impacts on the park and nearshore areas.

25 Creating further visitor attractions will cause

1 significant degradation of public trust resources in the
2 absence of projective measures. Rather, in regard to land
3 use, the SMA application includes the inconsistent
4 conclusion. The proposed projects would have no potential
5 impact on the land use at the park. The project would allow
6 improvements of the existing facilities and grounds which
7 serve as a main recreational resource for countless
8 residents and visitors. Installing further stalling further
9 recreational amenities for countless residents and visitors
10 will have a significant, detrimental impact on Park lands.

11 Proposals to increase parking spaces or bridge
12 width do not mitigate impacts including crowded, dangerous
13 surf breaks, surf schools of novice surfers in reef walkers
14 stomping on fragile coral, overflowing rubbish bins, and
15 sunscreen oil spilling across the ocean surface. This is
16 something we already see increasing at Ala Moana.

17 Environmental review for the beach replenishment
18 project at Kahana Bay, Maui specifically emphasized the need
19 to review impacts of increased beach use and associated
20 parking and traffic on the actual resources.

21 The statement that the park's underlying layer of
22 coral fill material, used to fill the shall mud flats,
23 enables stormwater to percolate into the ground does not
24 square with regular observation of flooding in that area
25 during and after medium to heavy rains.

1 Please deny the City's application. Thank you.

2 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you. The next
3 registered testifier is Ricky Wonder followed by Sam King.

4 And Sam King is the last registered testifier. And if
5 anyone else who haven't had a chance to speak and would like
6 to, please fill out a pink form. Ricky Wonder one more
7 chance. [no response] Not here? [no response] Okay.
8 Then our final registered testifier is Sam King. Is Sam
9 King here? Again, this is the last opportunity. After the
10 final registered testifier--excuse me, so if you'd like to
11 testify please fill out a pink sheet.

12 MR. KING: Aloha. I'm Sam King. I'm here to
13 testify as the sole representative of the young parents that
14 actually want the playground at the Ala Moana Beach Park.
15 I'm grateful that the community is passionate about it and
16 hopefully something can be worked out. I know the
17 playground is moving to Kaka'ako and hope it gets built
18 there. It'll be great for me and my kids.

19 Earlier I was at Ala Moana Beach Park with my son,
20 at the beach. It would be great to go in the water and come
21 out and go to this awesome playground. It sounds wonderful
22 to me. I see a lot of supporters here. It's 10:30 a.m. on
23 a Wednesday and you don't see a lot of parents with kids
24 showing up at public hearings. I'm here on my early lunch
25 break. I did talk to some of the parents and they're not

1 going to come and talk and testify. That's why the City
2 Council in the end is sort of against the playground project
3 because their votes don't count, the parents with children.
4 Parents with kids we don't have time to stay up all night
5 long reading things about this.

6 It's crazy that parents are not going to get the
7 chance to play and explain Ala Moana Beach Park, the future
8 generation. They worry about global warming destroying the
9 park. You get a playground for 50 years out of it, paid for
10 by rich people on Park Lane. That's not going to bother me
11 at all. So, I don't see a disadvantage there; I see it as a
12 wonderful thing. So, it's sad the playground is moving out
13 there. I understand that's what we got to do to compromise.
14 I think the project would've been great.

15 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
16 testimony. The next registered testifier is Irene Kloepper
17 followed by Winston Welch.

18 MS. KLOEPFER: Aloha. I'm Irene Kloepper. I agree
19 earlier what was said about the dog park. The dogs are very
20 viable. For our health that's the main priority. We need
21 all the green spaces to improve our health. We have to
22 think how we're going to move forward to our future. We're
23 in a climate crisis. A lot of people are denying it.

24 I heard testimony about the high tides coming up
25 to the shopping center. What happens five years down the

1 road. We need a lot more green spaces. We need to put in
2 our fruit trees and trees for shade from the sun. We need
3 start thinking more drastically about our future. We are in
4 crisis, and we're acting like money will take care of it;
5 it's not. We need to start thinking something different.
6 Thank you.

7 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
8 testimony. Okay. Next registered testifier is Winston
9 Welch followed by Denise Boisvert, and then Denise is the
10 last testifier.

11 MR. WELCH: Aloha. My name is Winston Welch, and
12 I'm the executive director for The Outdoor Circle, which you
13 are probably aware of was the original main contributor to
14 this park. Some things have change over the years, I think
15 it's important to realize that the City Council in 1998 came
16 specifically talked about do not change, no permanent
17 structures and keep the ground open space as a park, unless
18 it involves some ethnic groups or activities no matter what
19 it is.

20 Some testifiers mentioned about the SMA permit due
21 to related factors and not release insufficient EIS.

22 Since this is not specifically one of the major
23 elements asked for in the SMA but do understand the SMA is
24 submitted in its entirety and not allowed to be separated.
25 The controversial elements, which is the main concern of

1 playground, perpendicular parking which has a number of
2 issues and the dog park. The Council's Resolution 19188
3 that is not inappropriate for that.

4 There's a number of issues that hasn't been
5 addressed. So later when the City wants to pursue this
6 after the EIS.

7 I also agree with the previous testifier that it's
8 difficult for people to come at 10:30 a.m. I'm not sure if
9 there would be more people for or against this. Thank you.

10 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
11 testimony. The final registered testifier is Denise
12 Boisvert. So again once Denise is done, then the public
13 testimony portion of the public hearing is closed.

14 MS. BOISVERT: Hello. My name is Denise Boisvert.
15 I just want to say that I am tired of the word under
16 utilized. It seems like the excuse to even tear down a two
17 or three story building to put up a tower or paint over this
18 beautiful natural grassy areas called Ala Moana Park. So
19 this has to stop. I think too much time and energy have
20 been put into this irresponsible and hated proposal. That's
21 all I have to say.

22 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Thank you for your
23 testimony. So that was the last registered testifier. Does
24 anyone wish to testify? [no response] Also, let me do one
25 more call for Ricky Wonder. [no response] No Ricky Wonder.

1 Okay. Then the public testimony portion of this public
2 hearing is closed.

3 Alex, do you have any questions for the applicant?

4 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: I do. Would the applicant
5 or agent come up. I just wanted to confirm that the SMA
6 application which includes a playground is still being
7 desired, although this particular playground is no longer
8 being discussed in the master plan, a playground is still
9 part of the master plan?

10 MS. HIRAMATSU: Yes, it is.

11 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: We received comments from
12 the Historic Hawaii Foundation that there were concerns over
13 historic resources within the Park. The administration
14 intent to comply with the relevant state regulations
15 regarding the rehabilitation of historic structures?

16 MS. HIRAMATSU: Yes.

17 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: Please confirm these
18 projects will comply with Chapter 21A related to
19 developments in the flood hazard areas?

20 MS. HIRAMATSU: Yes.

21 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: Can I ask a question about
22 sand contamination?

23 MS. HIRAMATSU: Let me bring up the sea engineer
24 who did the studies.

25 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: Please state your name

1 for the record?

2 MR. SMITH: My name is David Smith. I'm the
3 coastal engineer with Sea Engineering. The first sand
4 source of the beach refer to coastal design is the offshore
5 of Ala Moana. The sand source is approximately 2,000 feet
6 offshore, some 4,000 or so feet offshore of the beach in
7 waters approximately 75-110 feet. A number of questions
8 today or voiced concerns about possible contamination of the
9 sand. We have also received comments also from other
10 permitting agencies regarding blue heron bats, and we're in
11 discussion.

12 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: I'm sorry, in regards to
13 what?

14 MR. SMITH: Sampling of the offshore sand source.

15 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: If the sand is found to be
16 contaminated, will it be used on the beach?

17 MR. SMITH: That's a great question. And the
18 reason why I hesitated is because there could be a number of
19 samples with certain levels for decisions to be made. My
20 job is going to be to recover that sand, have it tested and
21 submit it for City action.

22 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: Are there other locations in
23 the EIS identified?

24 MR. SMITH: We also looked at other alternatives.

25 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: One more question for you. I

1 just wanted to confirm the parking, variety of parking
2 projects that might possibly have bicycle parking?

3 MS. HIRAMATSU: Yes.

4 STAFF PLANNER BEATTY: That's all.

5 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: All right. Would you
6 like to address any comments or concerns that you heard from
7 testifiers today?

8 MS. HIRAMATSU: Not really. I think they need to
9 understand though that a lot of the projects won't be--I
10 mean all of these projects will not be done at the same
11 time; different phases.

12 HEARINGS OFFICER KRUEGER: All right then with no
13 further questions this public hearing is closed. Thank you
14 very much everybody for coming today. We appreciate it.

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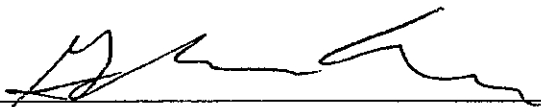
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1 I certify that the foregoing is a
2 true and correct transcription of
3 the proceedings, prepared to the
4 best of my ability of the meeting
5 held on Wednesday, December 18, 2019.

6 
7 _____

8 Gloria Takara

9 Secretary-Hearings Reporter

10
11 January 10, 2020

12 Date